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14 January 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: NIE-63: France's Prospective Ability to Play a Major Role in the Western Security System

BACKGROUND

1. Initiation of this estimate was approved by the IAC on 13 March 1952, as a long range examination of the French situation.

2. No major disagreement arose in the course of this estimate, which the agencies consider one of our better ones. There was much discussion over the prospects for EDC ratification but we believe that the present formulation is both accurate and acceptable.

SUBSTANCE

3. To our knowledge, all the agencies are in agreement on the present text. O-2 may suggest omitting the last sentence of the Conclusions (end of paragraph 51 in text). We feel that this sentence is a very desirable capstone to the estimate and believe O-2 will not insist on its omission, if they raise it at all.

SHERMAN KENT
Assistant Director
National Estimates

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